

**Secure Commonwealth Panel
Education Working Group
Tuesday, December 2, 2008 1:30- 3:30 p.m.**

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday February 18, 2009

Attendance:

Kay Goss (Chair-SCP member), Linda Rubin, (VDEM/CERT), Mark Buff (VDFFP), Barbara Young (DOE), Wanda Willis (Harrisonburg Fire), J.D. Jenkins (VDFFP), Billy Shelton (VDFFP), Curtis Brown (OCP)

ACTION ITEMS:

Person(s) Responsible:	Item:
Donna Bowman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forward a copy of the 2008 DCJS School Safety Survey to Working Group
Bob	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request for an update on Ready Virginia campaign at 2/18/09 meeting.
All Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop Questions to add to 2009 DCJS School Safety Survey
All Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify any additional stakeholders (i.e. teachers, principals, etc.) to invite to the next meeting.

Discussion:

Existing Dates Targeted for Preparedness

Kay Goss provided an update on her effort to identify all the specific months/dates dedicated to preparedness. Her research found that these dates are approved by the President of the United States (Governor if it is a state proclamation). Therefore, the month or dates could theoretically change with the new incoming Administration.

- A working group member suggested that all special preparedness months and dates be consolidated into a program to recognize a theme for each month of the year {September (Nat. Preparedness), October (Fire Prevention), November (Holiday Safety/Fire), April (Tornado), May/June (Hurricane)}
- **NOTE:** Discussion on Focus of the Report: There was brief discussion on what is the scope of the working group's effort. A working group member suggested focusing on issues that have statistically been proven to still be problem areas with youths such as seat belt awareness, etc. The group agreed that the focus of the report will be on emergency preparedness issues exclusively.

- The VA Department of Education is making SOLS Real world applicable to students (Example: 2nd grading mapping skills). The suggestion is to use current SOLS and present them with a preparedness focus. (Ex. Kindergarten- What is 911 How to use it?) Merge preparedness into current SOLS.
- It was noted that there are some grades without an SOL to connect to preparedness. (or it would be difficult to find the connection)
- A working group member made the suggestion that a product could be developed for the Governor to promote to schools with resources and activities readily available for teachers. The product could be combination of efforts by Ready VA, DOE, VDH, etc. Looking at past models such as Kids Safe VA was suggested.
- It was noted that the only way to ensure preparedness resources are used is to mandate there use through legislation/ new SOLS.
- The working group agreed that preparedness focused state agencies (VDEM, VDH, VSP, VDFP, etc.) have information that can be developed into lesson plans.
- The working group agreed that the following could be developed for K-5 preparedness instruction:
 - Lesson Plans
 - Merging preparedness into existing SOLS
 - Month Specific preparedness education (i.e. Hurricane preparedness-May)
 - Resources that link current disasters/events
 - Provide opportunity for teacher professional development/training opportunities through VDFP, CERT, etc.
 - Conduct 30-minute presentations during teacher's work-day 30-minute (partner with VA Fire Life Safety Coalition, CERT)
- The working group agreed that the effort to increase preparedness education to K-5 should capitalize on the Ready Virginia (www.ReadyVirginia.gov) effort and use it as the method to disseminate information.
- It was suggested an experienced curriculum developer would be necessary to do the crosswalk of SOLS with preparedness.

➤ Review of threat/disasters facing Virginia over the last several years included:

- Floods
- Tornados
- Winter Storms
- Active Shooter/Bomb Threat
- Hurricanes
- Fires
- Lightning

➤ The working group agreed that most of these identified threats/disasters should be the focus of the preparedness education to K-5 students.

Based on the working groups 3 meetings it appears that one or a combination of the following options are available to recommend and report to the Secure Commonwealth Panel:

- **ADD SOLS-Mandate:** Recommend that the legislature require new preparedness SOLS (possibly required overtime/phased-in)
- **Integrate into SOLS -No Mandate:** #1) Identify grant money for a contractor or designate a state agency (or working team) to do an in-depth crosswalk of current SOLS and available preparedness resources available to teachers from state agencies (and other entities). #2) Create a product of preparedness resources that can be available to teachers, provide training.

**As noted in previous meetings, changing SOLS is the least preferred option due to the full-day that teachers have to invest in teaching current SOLS.